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## DITORIAL

## BETTER HEALTH FOUNDATION

California has taken another advanced step in public health promotion. Better Health Foundation, a non-profit, non-stock California corporation, is the name of a new merger which brings together forces representing many important health activities. Articles of incorporation have just been filed and the officers of the Foundation are: Dr. Reginald Knight Smith, president; Dr. Langley Porter, first vice-president; Dr. James W. Ward, second vice-president; Hartley F. Peart, executive vice-president; Dr. John Gallwey, treasurer: Dr. Charles D. McGettigan, Directors—Drs. William Palmer comptroller. Lucas, Walter F. Schaller, O. D. Hamlin, Dudley Smith, W. P. Read, Ferdinand Stabel, Harold Brunn and Celestine J. Sullivan, director of information service.

Dr. W. B. Coffey, chairman of the executive committee, aptly describes the Foundation as "a philanthropic clearing house—the first non-profit non-stock corporation organized for the health profit of the public." The corporate seal of Better Health Foundation crystallizes its mission in these words: "For the Commonhealth and Commonwealth."

The Foundation will take over Better Health Service, hospital betterment work and other activities of the League for the Conservation of Public Health and expand the constructive program of health education. Authoritative, well-directed educational publicity, such as the League has been conducting for the past eleven years, is one of the most effective weapons we have in curbing preventable diseases and reducing the patronage of quackery. The practical value of scientific medicine and all allied sciences is equivalent to the amount that the public understands and will accept and practically apply. Science is far in advance of its general appreciation and application, and ignorance of and indifference to facts pertaining to individual and community hygiene, based upon the physical sciences, the biological sciences and the social sciences, are responsible for many preventable diseases, which are the greatest wasters of life and health. The great advances of science can be applied in the most effective way for the promotion of health and the reduction of preventable disease by the cooperation of all factors-the agencies of scientific medicine, the public, and an efficient central information service such as is now established by Better Health Foundation. The awakening of the public to the need of protecting their bodies and minds and to bring the messages of scientific medicine to the daily attention of the average newspaper reader is a service of great importance. Health and disease conditions are not only matters of personal importance, but they exert far-reaching influence upon the collective social and economic life of the state. Unused knowledge is useless. Continuous public health education is necessary so that practically everyone will learn what scientific medicine can do for them and how to apply its scientific lessons in making life healthier, happier and more efficient.

Eight different classes of membership are provided for by Better Health Foundation, embracing persons whose education, good judgment and practical experience in various specialized fields of health conservation and scientific research work equip them to undertake impartial studies and fact-finding surveys for the Foundation; owners, executives and administrators of institutions, corporations interested in facts pertaining to disease and accident prevention in industry, hospitals interested in hospital betterment, etc. All interested in any phase of this constructive health program will be given an opportunity to contribute small or large amounts to help carry on the beneficent work of the Foundation. All of the money raised whether from donations of philanthropists or dues of members will be devoted to constructive work as none of the directors as such receive any compensation, salary or profit in any form. Busy as these eminent men are with their manifold and diverse functions they have found time to organize and conduct this Foundation to help solve problems that endanger the health and happiness of homes, that handicap educational, civic and commercial progress, that retard the mental, physical, material and spiritual advancement of society. The high professional standing of the men who have established Better Health Foundation after eleven years of valuable experience and altruistic effort through the League may be accepted as conclusive evidence of sustained interest in a needed work and ability to perform that work well.